NUMB. VIII.

The SPECTATOR.

At Venus *obſcuro gradientes aere ſepſit,*
Et multo Nebulæ circum Dea fudit amictu,
Cernere ne quis eos ——. Virg.

Friday, March 9. 1711.

I Shall here communicate to the World a couple of Letters, which I believe will give the Reader as good an Entertainment as any that I am able to furniſh them with, and therefore ſhall make no Apology for them.

To the SPECTATOR, &c.

SIR,

'I Am one of the Directors of the Society for 'the Reformation of Manners, and therefore 'think my ſelf a proper Perſon for your Correſpon-'dence. I have thoroughly examined the preſent 'State of Religion in *Great-Britain*, and am able 'to acquaint you with the predominant Vice of 'every Market-Town in the whole Iſland. I can 'tell you the Progreſs that Virtue has made in all 'our Cities, Boroughs, and Corporations; and 'know as well the evil Practices that are committed 'in *Berwick* or *Exeter*, as what is done in my own 'Family. In a Word, Sir, I have my Correſpon-'dents in the remoteſt Parts of the Nation, who 'ſend me up punctual Accounts from time to time 'of all the little Irregularities that fall under their 'Notice in their ſeveral Diſtricts and Diviſions.

'I am no leſs acquainted with the particular 'Quarters and Regions of this great Town, than 'with the different Parts and Diſtributions of the 'whole Nation. I can deſcribe every Pariſh by its 'Impieties, and can tell you in which of our Streets 'Lewdneſs prevails, which Gaming has taken 'the Poſſeſſion of, and where Drunkenneſs has got 'the better of them both. When I am diſpoſed 'to raiſe a Fine for the Poor, I know the Lanes and 'Allies that are inhabited by common Swearers. 'When I would encourage the Hoſpital of *Bride-*'*well* and improve the Hempen Manufacture, I am 'very well acquainted with all the Haunts and Re-'ſorts of Female Night-walkers.

'After this ſhort Account of my ſelf, I muſt let you 'know, that the Deſign of this Paper is to give you 'Information of a certain irregular Aſſembly which 'I think falls very properly under your Obſervation, 'eſpecially ſince the Perſons it is compoſed of are 'Criminals too conſiderable for the Animadverſions 'of our Society. I mean, Sir, the Midnight Maſque, 'which has of late been very frequently held in one 'of the moſt conſpicuous Parts of the Town, and 'which I hear will be continued with Additions and 'Improvements. As all the Perſons who compoſe 'this lawleſs Aſſembly are maſqued, we dare not 'attack any of them in *our Way*, leſt we ſhould ſend 'a Woman of Quality to *Bridewell* or a Peer of '*Great-Britain* to the *Counter*: Beſides, that their 'Numbers are ſo very great, that I am afraid they 'would be able to rout our whole Fraternity, tho' 'we were accompanied with all our Guard of Con-'ſtables. Both theſe Reaſons which ſecure them 'from our Authority, make them obnoxious to 'yours; As both their Diſguiſe and their Numbers 'will give no particular Perſon Reaſon to think 'himſelf affronted by you.

'If we are rightly inform'd, the Rules that are 'obſerved by this new Society are wonderfully con-'triv'd for the Advancement of Cuckoldom. The 'Women either come by themſelves or are intro-'duced by Friends, who are obliged to quit them 'upon their firſt Entrance, to the Converſation of 'any Body that addreſſes himſelf to them. There 'are ſeveral Rooms where the Parties may retire, 'and, if they pleaſe, ſhow their Faces by Conſent. 'Whiſpers, Squeezes, Nods, and Embraces, are the 'innocent Freedoms of the Place. In ſhort, the 'whole Deſign of this libidinous Aſſembly ſeems to 'terminate in Aſſignations and Intrigues; and I 'hope you will take effectual Methods by your 'publick Advice and Admonitions, to prevent ſuch 'a promiſcuous Multitude of both Sexes from meet-'ing together in ſo clandeſtine a Manner.

I am,

Your humble Servant,

And Fellow-Labourer,

T. B.

Not long after the Peruſal of this Letter I received another upon the ſame Subject; which by the Date and Stile of it, I take to be written by ſome young Templer.

SIR

SIR, *Middle-Temple*, 1710-11.

'WHEN a Man has been guilty of any Vice 'or Folly, I think the beſt Attonement he 'can make for it is to warn others not to fall into 'the like. In order to this I muſt acquaint you, 'that ſome Time in *February* laſt I went to the 'Tueſday's Maſquerade. Upon my firſt going in 'I was attacked by half a Dozen female Quakers, 'who ſeem'd willing to adopt me for a Brother; 'but upon a nearer Examination I found they were 'a Siſterhood of Coquets diguiſed in that pre-'ciſe Habit. I was ſoon after taken out to dance, 'and as I fancied, by a Woman of the firſt Quali-'ty, for ſhe was very tall, and moved gracefully. 'As ſoon as the Minuet was over, we ogled one a-'nother through our Maſques; and as I am very 'well read in *Waller*, I repeated to her the four 'following Verſes out of his Poem to *Vandike*.

The heedleſs Lover does not know
Whoſe Eyes they are that wound him ſo;
But confounded with thy Art,
Enquires her Name that has his Heart.

'I pronounced theſe Words with ſuch a lan-'guiſhing Air, that I had ſome Reaſon to conclude 'I had made a Conqueſt. She told me that ſhe 'hoped my Face was not akin to my Tongue; 'and looking upon her Watch, I accidentally 'diſcovered the Figure of a Coronet on the back 'Part of it. I was ſo tranſported with the Thought 'of ſuch an Amour, that I plied her from one 'Room to another with all the Gallantries I could 'invent; and at length brought things to ſo happy 'an Iſſue, that ſhe gave me a private Meeting the 'next Day, without Page or Footman, Coach or 'Equipage. My Heart danced in Raptures; but 'I had not lived in this golden Dream above 'three Days, before I found good Reaſon to wiſh 'that I had continued true to my Landreſs. I have 'ſince heard by a very great Accident, that this fine 'Lady does not live far from *Covent-Garden*, and 'that I am not the firſt Cully whom ſhe has paſs'd 'her ſelf upon for a Counteſs.

'Thus, Sir, you ſee how I have miſtaken a '*Cloud* for a *Juno*; and if you can make any uſe of 'this Adventure, for the Benefit of thoſe who may 'poſſibly be as vain young Coxcombs as my ſelf, I 'do moſt heartily give you Leave.

I am,

SIR,

Your moſt humble Admirer,

B. L.

I deſign to viſit the next Maſquerade my ſelf, in the ſame Habit I wore at *Grand Cairo*; and till then ſhall ſuſpend my Judgment of this Midnight Entertainment.

ADERTISEMENTS.

Juſt publiſh'd,

A Sermon Preach'd before Sir Gilbert Heathcote, Knight, Lord Mayor, the Aldermen and Citizens of London at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul on the 30th of January 1710, being the Anniverſary Faſt for the Martyrdom of King Charles I. By Samuel Bradford, D. D. Rector of St. Mary le Bow, and Chaplain in Ordinary to her Majeſty. Printed for J. Wyat at the Roſe in St. Paul's Church-yard.

Juſt publiſh'd,

An Admonition to the Unbaptiz'd; ſhewing the Nature, Benefits, and Neceſſity of the Sacrament of Baptiſm, and giving ſuch Directions as are neceſſary to prepare Men for it: Intended chiefly for the uſe of thoſe who having not been Baptiz'd in their Infancy do when they come to Years of Diſcretion neglect to receive that Holy Sacrament. By John Johnſon, M. A. Vicar of Cranbrook in the Dioceſe of Canterbury. Printed for R. Knaplock at the Biſhop's-Head in St. Paul's Church-yard. Price 3 d.

An Account of Church-Government and Gover-nours, by Tho. Brett, L.L.D. Diſcourſes on the 5 Points, by Daniel Whitby, D. D. Four Diſcourſes on Election, Reprobation, and the fixed Term of Human Life, &c. by the ſame. The Honour and Dignity of the Clergy Repreſented, by J. Groome. Diſcourſes on the Homilies, by P. Nourſe, D. D. An Eſſay on Inſpiration, in two Parts, by Benj. Bayly, M. A. All Printed for J. Wyat at the Roſe in St. Paul's Church-yard.

Juſt publiſh'd,

The Eighth Edition of the Country Survey-Book; or, Land-Meter's Vade-mecum: Wherein the Principles and Practical Rules for Surveying of Land are ſo plainly (tho' briefly) deliver'd, that any ordinary Perſon may by the help of this one Treatiſe and a few cheap Inſtruments Meaſure any Parcel of Land with Expedition and Judgment, plot it, and give up the Content thereof. With an Appendix containing 12 Problems touching compound Intereſt and Annuities: And a Method to contract the Work of Fellowſhip and Allegation Alternate very conſiderable in many Caſes: Illuſtrated with Copper Plates. By Adam Marringdale. Printed for Geo. Sawbridge at the three Flower-de-Luces in Little-Britain. Pr. 1 s. 6 d.

The Practice of Phyſick, reduced to the ancient Way of Obſervations, containing a juſt Parallel between the Wiſdom and Experience of the Ancients and the Hypotheſis of Modern Phyſicians, &c. By George Baglivi, M. D. Profeſſor of Phyſick and Anatomy at Rome. Printed for D. Midwinter at the 3 Crowns in St. Paul's Church-yard.

Juſt publiſh'd,

Bibliotheca Anatomica, Medica, Chirurgica, &c. for the Month of January 1710, being the firſt Month of the 2d Vol. Containing Lyſeri Cultor Anatomicus in Engliſh, begins a Compleat Treatiſe of the Muſcles, &c. In a Fortnights time that for February will be publiſh'd, with many Curious Cutts, and in 12 Months this 2d Vol. will be Compleated, with good Index, &c. and 12 Months more finiſhes the 3d and laſt Vol. Printed by J. Nutt, in the Savoy, and ſold by J. Morphew, near Stationer's-Hall: Where may be had the 1ſt Vol. bound, or any odd Months to perfect Setts of the 1ſt Vol. Alſo Atlas Geographus for Europe Compleat, in 2 Vols. or odd Months to perfect Setts, alſo January and February for Aſia.

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A Humble Propoſal for Parochial Reformation by reſtoring Rural Deans and Chapters according to the antient way of the Church, recommended to the Conſideration of the preſent Convocation as the beſt way to Peace and Unity. By G. M. Preſbiter of the Church of England. Sold by H. and G. Mortlock at the Phœnix in St. Paul's Church-yard.

Juſt Publiſh'd,

Prælectiones Poeticæ: In Schola Naturalis Philo-ſophiæ Oxon. Habitæ. Authore Joſepho Trapp, A. M. Coll. Wadh. Socio & Prælectore Public Lecturæ Poeticæ; a Viro inſigniſſimo D. Henrico Birkhead, Coll. Omnium Animarum olim Socio in celleberrima Univerſitate Oxonienſi nuper Fundatæ. Oxonii e Theatro Sheldoniano. Impenſis Bernardi Lintott Bibliopolæ Londinenſis. Price bound 2 s. 6 d.

The Impiety and Folly of reſiſting lawful Gover-nours by Force or Arms, demonſtrated in a Sermon Preach'd on January 30th laſt, by Luke Milbourne a Presbyter of the Church of England. Price 6 d. Likewiſe three Sermons Preach'd at Stockton in the County of Salop by Alexander Scot, M. A. Publiſh'd to Vindicate them from the Miſrepreſentations they have met with. Price 6 d. Printed for G. Sawbridge in Little-Britain, and Sold by J. Morphew near Stationer's Hall.

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The Compariſon: Or, Accounts on Both Sides fairly Stated; in a View of the Management of the War in Spain, under the reſpective Commands of the Earls of Peterborough and Gallway. Occaſion'd by ſome late Enquiries in the Houſe of Peers. With their Lordſhips Proceedings thereupon. Printed by J. Morphew near Stationer's-Hall. Price 6 d. Where may be had Kennet's Sermon in Engliſh, with Remarks. Price 4 d. and an Anſwer to his Gentleman-like Treatment of the Tranſlator. Price 3 d.

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